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ON INTELLIGENCE

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Honorable William Casey  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

March 25, 1983

The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has been asked to investigate the relationship of the U.S. Government - particularly U.S. intelligence agencies - to Klaus Barbie. Recent newspaper accounts assert that U.S. Army intelligence officials used Barbie as an agent and later assisted him between 1947 and 1951 in evading French efforts to try him for war crimes he committed as chief of the Gestapo in Lyon during World War II.

The Committee is interested in establishing what relationship, if any, existed between the U.S. Government and Barbie from the end of World War II until his 1983 extradition to France from Bolivia, and how and by whom decisions concerning Barbie were reached. The Committee will wish to specifically address what U.S. Government agencies knew about Barbie, when they knew it, and what they did, or did not do, in light of this knowledge.

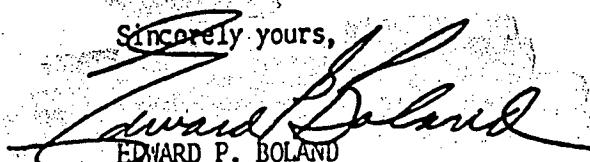
Based on its staff's preliminary inquiries about Barbie, the Committee would expect to focus its interest, and any future hearings, on how the U.S. relationship to Barbie and his associates was considered, approved and reviewed, and how such procedures contrast with current policies and practice.

Your assistance and cooperation in the Committee's efforts will be important. I therefore ask that you make available to the Committee all records under your jurisdiction which refer to Barbie or his post-War intelligence net or any other material which falls within the scope of the Committee's investigation. The Committee requests that you include within the ambit of your response any archival matter concerning Barbie of which you are aware, whether or not it falls within your jurisdiction. Finally, the Committee wishes to receive assistance in locating present or former intelligence officials who may have had dealings with or knowledge of Barbie during the period in question.

The Committee will be conducting its study in such a way as to minimize conflicts with the study effort being undertaken by the Department of Justice, whose assistance the Committee has requested in this connection.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,



Edward P. Boland  
Chairman

cc: Mr. Alan A. Ryan, Jr.  
Department of Justice